6th November 1947]

(2) It was imperative that repacking should be taken up immediately not only to prevent deterioration of milk powder but also to start the supply to school children.

(3) The Government of India made enquiries to see if they could arrange for the repacking themselves before supply. The only one competent firm in Bombay was doing similar work for the Bombay Government and could take no more orders. The Government of India felt that they could take no risk by entrusting the work to any other firm and left it to the Madras Government to make their own arrangements. Messrs. Parry & Co., who were the only firm in Madras who could handle repacking on a large scale and on scientific lines were most unwilling to do this work but were persuaded to take it up. But if the work was to be undertaken by them, they wanted that immediate arrangements should be made to provide water, electricity, a minimum amount of essential factory furniture and equipment, etc. They also wanted time to assemble a proper staff for the factory. They had also to make arrangements to obtain as much tin plate and ready-made containers as possible to pack the milk powder after it arrived. Meanwhile the Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, who was then on a visit to Madras, doubted if it would be possible for any factory to undertake the work of repacking such a large quantity of milk powder properly. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies therefore ordered under date 29th April 1946, that Messrs. Parry & Co. should be asked to send a man immediately to Bombay to find out how the work was being done in Bombay and to report the results. All these items of expenditure were naturally incurred before the date of Government Order which was issued only on 10th June 1946."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Sir, may I know whether Government can refer hon. Members, in reply to questions, to a Government Order which is placed in the Library, and about which we are learning only now?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am prepared to have this question taken up to-morrow so that the hon. Member may peruse these Government Orders."

Questions 100 to 110 were answered on 21st October 1947.

Major religious institutions.

* 111 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of major religious institutions (assessable to contribution) coming under the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, during the years 1942–43, 1943–44, 1944–45, 1945–46 and 1946–47;

(*b*) the amount of assessments and total demands made during the respective years;

(*c*) the amounts collected during these respective years;

(*d*) the arrears outstanding at the end of the respective years; and

(*e*) the amounts written-off or cancelled during the respective years?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) *to* (*e*) A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" What is the reason, Sir, for the great disparity between the amounts of assessment and the amounts collected? In some cases the disparity is as much as 40 per cent."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is true. The Endowment Board are trying their best. But collections are slow. That is one reason why Government want to take power under the new amendment."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Why are amounts written off? In 1946–47 the amount written off is Rs. 2,000 and odd. What is the reason?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The amounts were written off when Government found them irrecoverable."

Archakas and the " Grow More Food " campaign.

* 112 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the opposition of the archakas and servicedars in the Andhra districts, to the " Grow More Food " campaign organized by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to take any, and, if so, what steps to bring under intensive food cultivation the lands in the possession of the above archakas and servicedars?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of taking over these lands from these archakas who are standing in the way of the ' Grow More Food ' campaign? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Government will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 645 infra.